CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

ERIK GONZALEZ MARTINEZ, aka "Pedro Vargas Vasquez," aka "Heric Anival Gonzalez Martinez," aka "Erik Gonzalez,"

Defendant.

No. 8:22-cr-00091-MEMF

<u>PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT ERIK</u> GONZALEZ MARTINEZ

1. This constitutes the plea agreement between ERIK GONZALEZ MARTINEZ ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

RULE 11(c)(1)(C) AGREEMENT

2. Defendant understands that this agreement is entered into

pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C). Accordingly, defendant understands that, if the Court determines that it will not accept this agreement, absent a breach of this agreement by defendant prior to that determination and whether or not defendant elects to withdraw any guilty plea entered pursuant to this agreement, this agreement will, with the exception of paragraph 21 below, be rendered null and void and both defendant and the USAO will be relieved of their obligations under this agreement. Defendant agrees, however, that if defendant breaches this agreement prior to the Court's determination whether or not to accept this agreement, the breach provisions of this agreement, paragraph 23 below, will control, with the result that defendant will not be able to withdraw any guilty plea entered pursuant to this agreement, the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement, and the Court's failure to follow any recommendation or request regarding sentence set forth in this agreement will not provide a basis for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

3. Defendant agrees to:

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- a) Give up the right to indictment by a grand jury and, at the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to a one-count information, in the form attached to this agreement as Exhibit A or a substantially similar form, that charges defendant with being an illegal alien found in the United States following deportation or removal in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a).
 - b) Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
 - c) Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing

contained in this agreement and affirmatively recommend to the Court that it impose sentence in accordance with paragraph 13 of this agreement.

- d) Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- e) Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- f) Be truthful at all times with the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.
- g) Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of ability to pay such assessment.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

4. The USAO agrees to:

- a) Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- b) Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement and affirmatively recommend to the Court that it impose sentence in accordance with paragraph 13 of this agreement.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

5. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in the one-count information, a violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), the following must be true: (1) defendant was lawfully deported or removed from the United States; (2) after defendant's deportation or removal, defendant voluntarily entered

the United States; (3) after defendant entered the United States, defendant knew that defendant was in the United States and knowingly remained; (4) defendant was found in the United States without having obtained consent to reapply for admission into the United States from the Attorney General or the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, or any authorized representative of either official; (5) defendant was, at the time of the offense, an alien, that is, a person who is not a natural-born or naturalized citizen, or a national, of the United States; and (6) defendant was free from official restraint at the time he or she was found in the United States. Defendant was free from official restraint if defendant was first observed by a United States officer after defendant physically crossed the border of the United States.

In order for defendant to be subject to the heightened statutory maximum penalties under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(2), defendant's deportation or removal must have occurred after defendant was convicted of an aggravated felony, namely, the felony described in paragraph 10 below.

PENALTIES

- 6. The statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a), where the heightened statutory maximum penalties under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(2) apply, is: 20 years' imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 7. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant agrees

that the imposition of supervised release is warranted in this case, as authorized under U.S.S.G. § 5D1.1, cmt. n.5. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

- 8. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may result in defendant giving up valuable government benefits and civic rights and may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.
- 9. Defendant and his counsel have discussed the fact that, and defendant understands that, because defendant is not a United States citizen, the conviction in this case makes it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that defendant will be removed or deported from the United States. Defendant may also be denied United States citizenship and admission to the United States in the future. Defendant understands that while there may be arguments that defendant can raise in immigration proceedings to avoid or delay removal, removal is presumptively mandatory and a virtual certainty in this case. Defendant further understands that removal and immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding and that no one, including his attorney or the Court, can

predict to an absolute certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

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FACTUAL BASIS

- 10. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of violating 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) as described in the information and that he is subject to the heightened statutory maximum penalties under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(2) as set forth above. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 12 below but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.
 - (a) Defendant, a citizen of Mexico, was at all times relevant to this plea agreement an alien, that is, not a natural-born or naturalized citizen, or national, of the United States.
 - (b) On or about June 23, 2008, defendant was ordered removed from the United States for the first time. Defendant was lawfully deported or removed from the United States on or about May 20, 2016.
 - (c) Subsequent to defendant's deportation or removal, on an unknown date after May 10, 2016, defendant knowingly and voluntarily re-entered and thereafter remained in the United

- (d) After defendant re-entered and remained in the United States, on or about November 3, 2021, immigration authorities found defendant in Orange County, within the Central District of California.
- (e) Defendant was found by immigration authorities after he had physically crossed the border of the United States.
- (f) On or about September 26, 2002, defendant was convicted of Assault with a Semiautomatic Firearm, an aggravated felony, in violation of California Penal Code Section 245(b), and a sentence enhancement within the meaning of California Penal Code 12022.5(a), in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange, case number 01CF2784, for which defendant received a sentence of sixteen years of imprisonment. This conviction is a crime of violence for which the term of imprisonment imposed was at least one year.

SENTENCING FACTORS AND AGREED-UPON SENTENCE

11. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands

that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only.

12. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors:

Base Offense Level: 8 [U.S.S.G. § 2L1.2(a)]

Felony Conviction Sustained for which the Sentence Imposed Was Five Years or More and

Conduct Occurred Before Defendant's

Initial Removal Order: +10 [U.S.S.G. § 2L1.2(b)(2)(A)]

Acceptance of

Responsibility: -3 [U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)]

Early Disposition

Program Departure: -4 [U.S.S.G. § 5K3.1]

Total Offense Level: 11

Defendant and the USAO further agree that, if Defendant's Calculated Criminal History Category, as defined in paragraph 13 below, is criminal history category VI, the Early Disposition Program Departure shall be only 2 levels (rather than the 4 specified above), with the result that defendant's Total Offense Level will be 13 rather than 11 as specified above.

13. Defendant and the USAO agree that, taking into account the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1)-(7) and the relevant sentencing guideline factors set forth above, an appropriate disposition of this case is that the Court impose a sentence of:

(a) \$100 special assessment; (b) a term of imprisonment of duration equal to the low end of the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range determined by the Total Offense Level determined in accordance with paragraph 12 above, and the criminal history category calculated by the Court in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Sentencing Guidelines without any departure based on inadequacy of criminal history under

U.S.S.G. § 4A1.3 ("Defendant's Calculated Criminal History Category"); and (c) a three-year period of supervised release to follow release from imprisonment, which includes the following terms and conditions:

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- i) Defendant shall comply with the rules and regulations of the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and Second Amended General Order 20-04, including, but not limited to, the condition that defendant shall not commit another federal, state or local crime;
- ii) Defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. As directed by the Probation Officer, defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment. Thereafter, defendant shall also submit to periodic drug testing as directed by the Probation Officer, not to exceed eight drug tests per month;
- iii) Defendant shall comply with the immigration rules and regulations of the United States, and when deported or removed from this country, either voluntarily or involuntarily, not re-enter the United States illegally. Defendant is not required to report to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office while residing outside of the United States; however, within 72 hours of release from any custody or any reentry to the United States during the period of court-ordered supervision, defendant shall report for instructions to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office;
- iv) Defendant shall not obtain or possess any driver's license, Social Security number, birth certificate, passport or any other form of identification in any name, other than

defendant's true legal name, without the prior written approval of the Probation Officer; nor shall defendant use, for any purpose or in any manner, any name other than defendant's true legal name; and

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- 14. The parties also agree that no prior imprisonment (other than credits that the Bureau of Prisons may allow under 18 U.S.C. § 3585(b)) may be credited against this stipulated sentence, including credit under Sentencing Guideline § 5G1.3. Defendant represents, and the USAO does not contest, that defendant does not have the ability to pay a fine.
- 15. The parties agree that they will recommend that the Court impose the sentence set forth in paragraph 13 above, and that they will not seek, argue, or suggest in any way, either orally or in writing, that any other specific offense characteristics, adjustments, departures, or variances in sentence pursuant to the Sentencing Guidelines and/or the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) be imposed, or that the Court impose a sentence other than what has been stipulated to by the parties herein.
- as soon as possible following the entry of defendant's guilty plea. The parties stipulate and agree that, with the exception of defendant's criminal history, there is sufficient information in the record to enable the Court to exercise its sentencing authority meaningfully without a presentence investigation or report. The parties agree to request that the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office prepare a presentence report that is limited to defendant's criminal history only. To the extent

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defendant has a right to a presentence investigation and preparation of a presentence report relating to anything other than defendant's criminal history, defendant hereby knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently waives that right. The parties agree to request that the Court find, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32(c)(1), that the information in the record, coupled with a presentence report limited to defendant's criminal history, is sufficient to enable the Court to exercise its sentencing authority meaningfully without a more complete presentence investigation and report. The parties understand and agree that, in the event that the Court declines to make this finding and instead orders that a more complete presentence investigation be conducted and/or a more complete presentence report prepared, such action shall have no effect on the validity of this Agreement or any of its terms or conditions and shall not provide a basis for either party to withdraw from the plea agreement.

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 17. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a) The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
 - b) The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c) The right to be represented by counsel and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel at every other stage of the proceeding.
- d) The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty

beyond a reasonable doubt.

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- e) The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- f) The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.
- g) The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.
- h) Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE

19. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes the sentence specified in paragraph 13 above, defendant gives up the right to appeal any portion of that sentence, with the exception that defendant reserves the right to appeal Defendant's Calculated Criminal History Category, as defined in paragraph 13 above.

20. The USAO agrees that, provided the Court imposes the sentence specified in paragraph 13 above, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of that sentence, with the exception that the government reserves the right to appeal Defendant's Calculated Criminal History Category, as defined in paragraph 13 above.

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RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

21. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

22. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

23. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached,

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and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea, (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement, and (c) the Court's failure to follow any recommendation or request regarding sentence set forth in this agreement will not provide a basis for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 24. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts, sentencing factors, or sentencing. Defendant understands that the Court will determine the facts, sentencing factors, and other considerations relevant to sentencing and will decide for itself whether to accept and agree to be bound by this agreement.
- 25. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations and sentence referenced in paragraphs 12 and 13 are consistent with the facts of this case. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit

full and complete factual information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

26. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

27. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TRACY L. WILKISON

United States Attorney

MELISSA S. RABBANI

Assistant United States Attorney

ERICK CONTRIES MADEINES

24 ERIK GONZALEZ MARTINEZ

Defendant

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Deputy Federal Public Defender

Attorney for Defendant ERIK GONZALEZ MARTINEZ

6/27/2022

Date

Date 6/22/22 6/22/22

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

TO DEFENDANT AND COUNSEL: INITIAL THE TRUE STATEMENT AND CROSS OUT THE OTHER:

- 1. This agreement has been read to me in Spanish, the language I understand best. Defendant's initials: $\frac{E}{2}$ Counsel's initials: $\frac{E}{2}$ OR:
- 2. I am fluent in English and have carefully read this agreement. Defendant's initials: ____/ Counsel's initials: _____/

I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading quilty because I am quilty of the charges and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason.

FRICK Contale?

Date'

Defendant

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CERTIFICATION OF INTERPRETER 1 I, Ma Dolore OVHE ham fluent in the written and 2 spoken English and Spanish languages. I accurately translated this 3 entire agreement from English into Spanish to defendant ERIK 4 GONZÁLEZ MARTINEZ on this date. 5 ÍNTERPRETÆ 7 CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY 8 I am ERIK GONZALEZ MARTINEZ's attorney. I have carefully and 9 thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. 10 Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible 11 pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that 12 might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing 13 factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing 14 Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this 15 agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or 16 representations of any kind have been made to my client other than 17 those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced 18 my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's 19 decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary 20 one; and the factual basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient 21 to support my client's entry of a guilty plea pursuant to this 22 agreement. 2.3 6/22/22 24

SAMUEL O. CROSS

Deputy Federal Public Defender

Attorney for Defendant

ERIK GONZALEZ MARTINEZ

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